

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, substance use disorders are chronic, progressive, and disabling and result in costs to our nation that are greater than those associated with cancer and obesity; and

WHEREAS, substance use disorders are medical conditions that can be effectively treated, and research shows that after completing publicly-funded treatment, pregnant women have healthier infants, youth are more likely to stay in school and avoid criminal behavior, and adult employment and earnings increase; and

WHEREAS, investing in treatment saved Washington State \$17 million in medical costs in 2008; and

WHEREAS, by participating in Recovery Month events and learning about the myths surrounding substance use disorders, treatment, and recovery, we can encourage, educate, and help improve the lives of family and friends; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, and the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services invite residents to participate in Recovery Month events; and

WHEREAS, all citizens are asked to celebrate this year's recovery theme—*Join the Voices for Recovery: Together We Learn, Together We Heal*;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 2009 as

Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 11th day of August, 2009

Governor Christine O. Gregoire

